

## DoD/EPA Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) Activities and Initiatives

**Background:** Ammonium perchlorate is used as an oxidizer in solid rock fuel and found in some fireworks, flares, and fertilizer. Unburned ammonium perchlorate is highly soluble in water, mobile, and hard to detect and treat. Groundwater contamination has been found at mostly manufacturing facilities. However, DoD facilities in 14 states have found perchlorate contamination in ground and surface water. There are currently no state or federally promulgated cleanup levels (MCL's). Several states have moved to set provisional perchlorate groundwater cleanup levels to protect human health. DoD, U.S. EPA and other governmental agencies have formed an Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) aimed at completing sound toxicological studies to support a national perchlorate groundwater cleanup level determination by US EPA.

In August 00, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) hosted the 5th Annual Joint Services Pollution Prevention/Hazardous Waste Management Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, TX, which included a special two-day meeting with concurrent breakout sessions on the human toxicology of perchlorate and on public and private sector treatment technology initiatives.

In November 00 the annual Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program/Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (SERDP/ESTCP) Partners in Environmental Technology Technical Symposium & Workshop was held in Arlington, VA. The conference included a session dedicated to perchlorate and provided an overview of: ecotoxicity and amphibian metamorphosis; a private sector project to treat perchlorate and co-contaminants in order to produce drinking water in California; and status updates on DoD-funded research into the biological treatment of perchlorate and co-contaminants in groundwater. Technical abstracts of the presentations can be found under SERDP's Partners in Environmental Technology Technical Symposium & Workshop section at: <http://www.serdp.org/symposiums/symposiums.html>

**Status:** Lt. Col. Dan Rogers, AF will give a brief status of the DoD/EPA toxicology study peer reviews and an estimated schedule for future IPSC activities. Information on current treatment technologies will also be discussed.

**Impact:** The DoD, U.S. EPA and state combined effort should provide a sound scientific basis to set a national cleanup level that can be adopted by the states.

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